



Grimsdell

Grimsdell, Mill Hill Pre-Prep
Instilling values, inspiring minds

2025/2026

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Dear Parents

Thank you for attending our Open Morning. We hope you enjoyed your visit and that you were able to get a sense of the warm and inclusive environment that we are so proud of at Grimsdell Pre-Prep.

Our Admissions Information Pack includes a wealth of information regarding the Admissions process and other key School information. Many of you will have already Registered your child(ren) with us, however, if you are yet to Register and you would like to do so, please visit the Registration page on our website.

If you have any queries arising from your visit, I would be very happy to hear from you, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes

Sarah Davies-Jones

Head of Admissions

admissions@grimsdell.org.uk

Tel: 020 8959 6884

- 3+ and 4+ Entry 2025/2026
- Entry Admissions Calendar
- School Fees for the Academic Year 2024/25
- Early Years
- Key Stage 1
- Breakfast Club
- Stay & Play - After School Club



Grimsdell is a co-educational pre-prep school for children aged 3-7. Entry is available at 3+ (Nursery) and 4+ (Reception).

3+ NURSERY 2025

We are still accepting Registrations for children with a date of birth between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, however, our initial registration list will close shortly, early registration is therefore strongly encouraged.

Our Nursery

We welcome approximately 40 pupils into our Nursery every September.

We offer a full day Nursery provision, with children spending half of their day in our Nursery classroom and half the day in our Nursery Forest School, including our purpose built outdoor classroom.

Scan the QR code to read our Nursery in Nature Brochure:



Interviews and Assessments

Our Nursery assessments take place in the Autumn Term prior to the year of entry. Each applicant Registered on to our Initial Registration List will be invited to take part in our interview and assessment process.

Our interview and assessment process consists of an informal parent interview with the Head and a child-led, play-based assessment for the child.

Please note that it is not possible to defer offers for our Nursery to our Reception Year Group. If you are offered a place in the Nursery and you are unable to accept for any reason, you would be invited to join us for a further assessment the following year for a possible place in our Reception Year Group.

4+ RECEPTION 2025

We are still accepting Registrations for children with a date of birth between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, however, our initial registration list will close shortly, early registration is therefore strongly encouraged.

Our Reception Year Group

There are three classes that make up our Reception Year Group. Two classes are largely filled by our Nursery children moving up to Reception, we therefore have one class, approximately twenty places, to offer to our external applicants.

Interviews and Assessments

Our Reception assessments take place in the January of the year of entry.

We conduct a two-phase assessment process for entry into our 4+ Reception Year Group. The first-round assessment consists of a group assessment for children. Applicants invited to join us for the second round of assessments will take part in a family assessment, consisting of an individual pupil assessment with our Early Years Team and an informal interview for the parents, conducted by our Head, Mrs Simon.

Registering Your Child

When you are ready to Register your child with us, please complete our on-line Registration Form making payment of the non-refundable Registration Deposit of £150.00.



Sibling Policy

We do operate a Sibling Policy and priority is given to applicants who have a sibling in the Foundation, subject to our assessment programme.

Chance Vacancies

Occasionally there are places available in other years, known as 'Chance Vacancies'. Please contact us to find out about possible places.

The Best Way to Visit Us

We love nothing more than welcoming new families to our School and sharing with them all that we have to offer at Grimsdell Pre-Prep. Our School is surrounded by nature and we take full advantage of this, the children are fully immersed in their outdoor learning and our outside facilities are a real highlight of a visit to Grimsdell.

We host a number of small group/family tours throughout the year. To register your interest for any of these events please visit the Open Morning and Tours page on the School website. We look forward to welcoming you.



School fees applicable from January 2025, after VAT applied, will be as follows:

Fee	Description	£
Registration Fee	The non-returnable charge for lodging a Registration form. Payment of registration fees must be made through the online payment portal Flywire which provides you with an easy and secure way to make payment. To make a payment, please visit millhillregistration.flywire.com	£150.00
Acceptance Deposit	The Acceptance deposit is payable on return of the completed Acceptance Form. This deposit will be repaid as a credit without interest after the final term, less any other sums due to the School on leaving subject to The Foundations Standard Terms & Conditions.	£2000.00

Tuition Fee:	Per term	Per annum
Nursery Full Day	£5,800	£17,400
Reception – Year 2	£7,595	£22,785

The tuition fee also includes additional charges for curriculum expenses and additional contributions towards basic sports trips and visits.

Notes:

A full terms fees may be applicable in accordance with The Mill Hill School Foundation Standard Terms and Conditions in the circumstances where a pupil is being withdrawn from the School prematurely and without proper notice.

Payment Arrangements: The Foundation prefers that tuition fee invoices be paid by Termly Direct Debit. New / prospective parents will only be able to access the form once their Firefly account has been setup by the school.

Due Date: Each term’s invoice for fees and extras is due for payment on or before the first day of term.

Late payment Charge on Overdue Accounts are applicable in accordance with The Foundations Standard Terms and Conditions.

Taxes: All fees and supplemental charges quoted are inclusive of taxes, which have been added (where applicable). Fees maybe subject to minor changes post budget – 30 October 2024.

Queries: For any fee related queries please contact the fees department by email to fees@mhsfoundation.org.uk

EARLY YEARS AT GRIMSDSELL

Early Years encompasses all children in our Nursery and Reception classes.

Our play-based curriculum enables children to be fully absorbed into learning, making links and creating a deep understanding of what is being taught. A safe, secure environment is provided for the children in which to interact and explore rich and diverse learning opportunities both indoors and outdoors.

The children engage in both adult directed and child initiated activities, offering learning opportunities to suit all children’s development.

Nursery

Our Nursery for three to four year olds offers a stimulating and secure environment. The children’s day is divided between the classroom and our dedicated Nursery Forest School.

Format of the day

	Hedgehogs (3 members of staff)	Squirrels (3 members of staff)
8:30am – 11:30am	Forest School	Nursery
11:30am – 12:30pm	LUNCH TIME	
12.30pm – 3.15pm	Nursery	Forest School

Our Nursery team is led by Miss Adene Davey, she is supported by a Forest School Leader and a team of Nursery Assistants, together they provide a programme of activities both in the classroom and the Forest, which offer variety and are developmentally appropriate to the individual child.

The activities are organised to allow children to explore and learn following the Early Years Foundation Stage. The children are given time to investigate, experiment and engage in open-ended play. Each term the children work on different topics using the ‘Early Years Foundation Stage’ as a framework for planning.

The Nursery is an integral part of the whole School. The Nursery classroom offers a home corner, reading and listening area, a painting, sand and water area, as well as a wealth of construction toys and puzzles. It has its own quiet, fenced outdoor play area, offering a safe adventure playground. Whilst the Forest School at Grimsdell offers children the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves. It allows them to attempt new challenges that they would not face in a classroom. There are opportunities for children to experience the ‘classroom’ of the outdoors engaging in activities such as tree climbing, making dens and reading in the fresh air.

Reception

The Reception classes are located in our Early Years Village, providing the children with free-flow access to the outdoor learning environment.

The Reception classrooms offer a variety of different areas for the children to explore; designed to meet the needs of each new cohort. These include a role play area, reading and listening area, a creative area, sand and water, a wealth of construction toys and puzzles.

Children learn to work independently as well as part of a team. The children are supported and encouraged throughout the year to ensure a smooth transition into Year 1.

Progression is carefully tracked against the Early Learning Goals and learning is enabled to suit each individual's needs and interests.

Language Development

Communication and language is a prime area in the Early Years Foundation Stage, signifying its crucial role as a foundational element for all other developmental areas. A child's language abilities are closely linked to their overall growth and can serve as indicators of their future academic success. By creating a language-rich environment, we can enhance children's speaking and listening skills, thereby laying the foundation for literacy. This environment allows children to interpret visual and verbal cues, which ultimately supports their reading and writing development. Children develop strong language skills when they are involved in playful, language-rich environments with opportunities to learn new words. Hands-on experiences facilitate learning by offering contexts in which new words can be actively explored; for instance, children are more likely to learn the names of vegetables when they can touch or taste them.

Our curriculum has a strong emphasis on song and rhyme, as this medium offers an engaging method for exploring the sounds and patterns present in language. Poems that include actions and repetition help children attune to the structure of spoken language while also introducing them to new vocabulary.

We provide a book rich environment - reading aloud and sharing books are essential for promoting language development and understanding new concepts. By encouraging children to explore illustrations and comprehend the accompanying text, we can enhance their language skills and broaden their vocabulary.

In our library and classroom environments, children are exposed to non-fiction and high-quality literature, including storybooks, encouraging them to interpret the world around them through language. Promoting dialogue during book-sharing sessions serves as an effective strategy for supporting communication and language development

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Mathematics in the early years plays a crucial role in developing a child's problem-solving skills and logical thinking. Early exposure to maths concepts such as counting, shapes, patterns, and measurement helps build a strong foundation for future learning. It enhances cognitive development by encouraging children to explore, reason, and make sense of the world around them. Maths activities also support language development as children learn to describe quantities, sizes, and positions. Early mathematical experiences, often through play and hands-on activities, foster curiosity and a positive attitude toward learning, setting the stage for success in later academic and real-life situations.

Music

Music lessons are taught by a specialist teacher in an engaging, interactive and fun way using the Kodaly and Dalcroze methods. The 'elements' of music are taught through games, singing and movement and using percussion instruments. The children have regular access to music with two music lessons and one choral lesson timetabled per week. The children can choose to learn other instruments in our afterschool clubs and be part of the Toffee Bear Choir in KS1.

Each year group is showcased in their own production each year where every child is featured with spoken lines and class dances. These are performed in the purpose built theatre at Mill Hill School.

PE

Physical development in early childhood is essential for a child's overall growth and well-being. It strengthens muscles and bones, supports motor skill development, and boosts cognitive abilities by building brain-body connections. Active play also promotes social interaction, emotional confidence, and helps prevent childhood obesity. Additionally, refining fine motor skills prepares children for school tasks like writing, while regular physical activity improves focus and behaviour. Early physical development lays a strong foundation for a healthy and successful future. These skills are supported through PE sessions with our specialist teacher when engaging in dance, movement, use of apparatus and taking part in games.

Technology

Technology in the early years provides opportunities for our young children to explore, create, and interact with educational content in engaging ways. Interactive apps, games, and digital tools can support the development of literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills. However, it is essential to balance screen time with real-world play and social interaction to promote overall healthy development. We integrate the use of technology as a discrete subject from the age of three, using programmable toys, a range of software and resources. We have 1:1 iPads in Years 1 and 2 and a class set in EYFS classrooms. When used thoughtfully, technology enhances learning experiences, fosters creativity, and introduces children to digital literacy while preparing them for a technology-driven world.



KEY STAGE 1 (YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2)

Key Stage 1 encompasses children in Year 1 (aged 5-6) and Year 2 (aged 6-7). We provide a nurturing, engaging environment where learning is designed to be inspiring, memorable, and meaningful. Each year group is divided into three classes, each supported by a teacher and a teaching assistant.

We follow the National Curriculum, offering a balanced blend of core subjects and foundation subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art and Design
- Computing
- Design and Technology (DT)
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)
- Religious Education (RE)

In addition, children are taught French, Swimming, Library skills and take part in fortnightly Forest School sessions. Children benefit from the expertise of specialist teachers in Computing, Music, PE, Library, French, Forest School and a visiting Art specialist. At the heart of our philosophy is our Creative Curriculum that goes beyond the National Curriculum, integrating academic rigour with 21st-century skills. Through a cross-curricular, enquiry-based approach, children are encouraged to recognise the connections in their learning, fostering intellectual curiosity, problem-solving abilities, and critical thinking skills. This approach helps us nurture a lifelong love of learning, with children engaging in activities that challenge and excite them.

Year 2 children experience a smooth transition to Belmont through a weekly activities programme. Children take part in a half termly rotation of Design Technology (DT), Spanish and Physical Education (PE), all taught by Belmont specialists. This not only introduces them to new activities, but also familiarises them with the school site, prep school staff and the older pupils, helping to build their confidence for the next stage of their educational career.

Each child's learning journey is recorded both digitally via Seesaw and through a physical learning journal. This offers parents a comprehensive view of their child's progress. Children develop independence by making decisions about the organisation and presentation of their work and are encouraged to take ownership of their achievements and learning.

Beyond academics, we believe in educating the whole child. Pupils are encouraged to question, enquire, and collaborate, building strong verbal and written communication skills, while hands-on practical experiences promote independence and confidence. Key Stage 1 children also take on roles of responsibility such as Librarian, House Captains, members of the School Council, and Playground Buddies. The growing Eco Committee provides further leadership opportunities.

Key Stage 1 children have access to a variety of after-school clubs, further enriching their school experience. Outside the classroom, supervised playtimes, outdoor learning sessions and Forest School offer the chance for children to develop their physical and social skills, ensuring they grow both academically and personally in a supportive and dynamic environment.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club runs weekly Monday – Friday, from 7.30am.

Open to all pupils in Nursery – Year 2, Breakfast Club is held in the School Hall and offers a fun and friendly start to the day.

The children can choose from a variety of cereals, toast and fruit, water and milk is available and, as a special treat on Fridays, children enjoy pancakes and croissants.

£8
per session

from
7:30am

1:8
Staff to
pupil ratio

STAY & PLAY - AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Stay & Play is our flexible after school care provision for children who need to stay at School beyond school hours and are not in a club.

We provide children with a fun and productive experience with a wide choice of planned activities.

£8
per hour

3:15-
5:30pm

1:8
Staff to
pupil ratio

Who can attend?

Open to all pupils in Nursery - Year 2.

When / Where?

Daily between the times of 3:15–5:30pm. Stay & Play sessions are held in one of our classrooms, with the option of outdoor play (weather depending) as well as games and activities being held in the Hall.

Prices and Collection Information

£8 per hour charge. You are welcome to collect your child at any time during the late room session providing it is no later than 5:30pm.

Refreshments

All children will be provided with a snack which will consist of crackers and cheese or bread and butter, a selection of fruit and crudités and a drink. This is followed by a choice of a plain or chocolate biscuit.

Activities

A variety of activities are available for the children to choose from. These include, but are not limited to, artwork, role play, construction play and board games. Our Grimsdell Teaching Assistants provide a fun and interactive Stay and Play facility.

Grimsdell, Mill Hill Pre-Prep. A part of the Mill Hill Education Group.



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millhill.org.uk/grimsdell

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Mill Hill Pre-Preparatory School
Winterstoke House
Wills Grove
Mill Hill
London NW7 1QR

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